

*Clayton County  
Youth Services*



# ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

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## Mission

Our mission is to offer and promote program service opportunities to the youth of Clayton County designed to create positive learning experiences that will give rise to promising contributing members of our community.

## We Are...

...a vessel of support for Clayton County's youth age 14-24.

The office provides and extends available leadership opportunities, creativity, independence, and workforce readiness. Our youth will have access to resources that will help them achieve personal and career goals.

We look forward to serving the youth of Clayton County through enriching programs to produce model citizens to be the change they want to see.

## #ClaytonStrong



**Goal I: Serve as the functioning body in development of plans in the areas of policy development and civic engagement for youth related issues.**

#### *Clayton County Youth Commission*

The Clayton County Board of Commissioners recognized the importance of obtaining the perspective of the Clayton County youth regarding issues they face within the community. As a result, on March 3, 2015, the Clayton County Youth Commission was established by the Board of Commissioners as a mechanism for youth to interface with government officials, expand their knowledge as it pertains to the interworking of government and policy development and serve as advocates for their peers.

#### *Mission*

The mission of the Clayton County Youth Commissioners is to strive for

Success with excellent

Work ethics and

Innovation to

Transform the

Community with distinguished

Honor.



"Switch Up...Together We Are Clayton Strong!"

On September 19, 2017, the Youth Commission held interviews for new members. Fourteen candidates were welcomed into the Clayton County Youth Commission bringing a grand total to nineteen Youth Commissioners. All nineteen Youth Commissioners completed junior deputy registrar training administered by the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration department. This will enable them to conduct voter registration drives in their respective communities and schools.

On October 17, 2017, fourteen candidates and returning youth commissioners were sworn in as Clayton County's 2017-18 Youth Commission. Youth Commissioners began to attend Board of Commissioners' regular business meetings and e-mail Commissioners questions regarding agenda items as a means to begin to interface with government officials and expand their knowledge as it pertains to the interworking of government and policy development. They were also provided the opportunity to interact with Ramona Bivins, Chief Financial Officer, Jason Brookins, Director of Information and Technology and Carl Rogers, Director of Central Services, to learn the nuances of County operations during their Youth Commission meetings.

#### **Georgia Secretary of State Student Ambassador Program**

For the first time since its commencement in 2014, the Georgia Secretary of State Student Ambassador Program invited Clayton County schools and youth organizations to participate. Secretary of State Brian Kemp launched the Secretary of State's Ambassador Program for high school students. The Ambassadors Program is a leadership training program for high school students in the 10th through 12th grades that encourages civic participation and voter registration.

Students who serve as Ambassadors promote civic engagement, voter registration and volunteerism in their schools by speaking to classes and assemblies, hosting voter registration drives and volunteering in their communities. The goal of these activities is to educate high school students about the government and show them how to become engaged through voter registration or volunteer opportunities.

The program prepares Ambassadors for this work by providing students with training materials and guidance for public speaking, working in a team environment, time management, problem solving, and professionalism. Students will have the opportunity to develop these skills as they participate in the program.

**The Clayton County Youth Commission took home 1<sup>st</sup> place in their region, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state and Rookie of the Year!**



### Shout-out from Secretary Kemp

The Office of Youth Services and the Clayton County Youth Commission (CCYC) received recognition on December 14, 2017 on the Georgia Student Ambassadors Facebook page for participating in the National Day of Giving challenge! The CCYC was awarded 2,000 points for their participation and a shout-out from the Secretary of State,

**"Hello, Ambassadors! We would like to applaud Lanier County High School and Clayton County Office of Youth Services for participating in the National Day of Giving Challenge! Clayton County Youth Commission chose to send letters to veterans and active duty personnel, while Lanier County chose to write appreciation letters to their faculty and staff! What a great way to give back to your community! Great work!!!"**

The Youth Commission's letters enabled Operation Gratitude to send over **250,000 'chock full' Care Packages** in 2017 to the tens of thousands of brave men and women still deployed overseas in harsh and remote areas; to their children anxiously awaiting their return; and to Veterans, New Recruits, First Responders, Wounded Heroes, and their Care Givers. On December 9, 2017, Operation Gratitude celebrated the delivery of their **Two Millionth Care Package**—all made possible by the support of the Clayton County Youth Commission!



## Our Youth Are College Bound!

On May 17, 2018 we bid farewell to five Youth Commissioners attending Georgia Southern University, Jackson State University and North Carolina A&T State University.



### Survey Monkey Results

Non-returning Youth Commissioners and their respective parents/guardians were asked to complete a survey. See what they said about us.

#### **\*\*\*Youth Commissioners' Survey Responses\*\*\***

1. *What did you like most about the Clayton County Youth Commission?*

1<sup>st</sup> response: "The people" – anonymous

2<sup>nd</sup> response: "The love and support they had for not only the community but the citizens within it." – anonymous

3<sup>rd</sup> response: "Networking and volunteering." – anonymous

2. *What did you like least about the Clayton County Youth Commission?*

1<sup>st</sup> response: "The meetings." – anonymous

2<sup>nd</sup> response: "Some of the events we went to were unorganized but the Clayton County Youth Commission and their administration always did a great job." – anonymous

3<sup>rd</sup> response: "I loved everything about the ccyc." – anonymous

3. *Did the Clayton County Youth Commission meet your expectations?*

1<sup>st</sup> response: Yes.

2<sup>nd</sup> response: Yes.

3<sup>rd</sup> response: Yes.

4. *If no, then why not?*

1<sup>st</sup> response: "NA" – anonymous

2<sup>nd</sup> response: "NA" – anonymous

5. *What would you suggest for improvement in the future?*



1<sup>st</sup> response: "Use meetings to plan events." – anonymous

2<sup>nd</sup> response: "I don't know." – anonymous

3<sup>rd</sup> response: "More youth commissioners being involved & trying to get the community more involved with more events." – anonymous

### \*\*\*Parents' Survey Responses\*\*\*

1. *What did you like most about your child being part of the Clayton County Youth Commission?*

1<sup>st</sup> response: "The part I liked most is the fact that the Leaders taught the youth commissioners to be responsible and all the community service they participated in." – anonymous

2<sup>nd</sup> response: "Our county officials created an opportunity for our kids. Janée and Nicole deserve so much for leading this." – anonymous

3<sup>rd</sup> response: "Learning about the makeup of the council and government." – anonymous



2. *What did you like least about your child being part of the Clayton County Youth Commission?*

1<sup>st</sup> response: "There wasn't anything that I did not like about CCYC." – anonymous

2<sup>nd</sup> response: "Nothing..." – anonymous

3<sup>rd</sup> response: "Last minute activities scheduled." – anonymous

3. *Would you recommend the Clayton County Youth Commission to other parents?*

1<sup>st</sup> response: Yes.

2<sup>nd</sup> response: Yes.

3<sup>rd</sup> response: Yes.

4. *Please provide suggestions for improvement.*

1<sup>st</sup> response: "Even though there is always room for improvement, I can't think of any suggestions for improvement." – anonymous

2<sup>nd</sup> response: "Parents need to be willing to assist if needed." – anonymous

3<sup>rd</sup> response: "More activities dealing with social issues. The elderly, orphans, soup kitchens, homeless, etc." – anonymous

**Goal II: Increase the number of youth who have access to and complete a post-secondary pathway and obtain a job.**

#### *Eckerd Connects Work Experience Program*

On February 6, 2018, the Board of Commissioners approved a partnership between the Office of Youth Services and Eckerd Connects to provide a Work Experience Program (WEP) for Clayton County Youth ages 18-24. The program is designed to expose the participants to a practical side of the world of work, career exploration with emphasis on the importance of education, life skills training and provide hands-on work experience. The program is a structured and well supervised work-based training allowing the youth to gain employability skills: working and completing assignments as directed, showing up for work regularly, on time and with a positive attitude, working as a team member, demonstrating sound reasoning abilities and independent judgement. The program is fully funded by Eckerd Connects.



**Mark Burrell** was assigned to Clayton County Police Department's E-911. **Xavier Howard** was assigned to Headquarters Library. **Alexcia Moreland** was assigned to the Department of Information Technology. **Natharius Welch** was assigned to Headquarters Library. **Amelia Parisi** was assigned to the Tax Assessors department. We were able to fulfill five internships through Eckerd Connects Work Experience Program and we look forward to doing the same for more in the next fiscal year!

#### *Youth Summer Job Fair*

On March 17, 2018, we hosted a Youth Summer Job Fair in conjunction with Commissioner Sonna Singleton Gregory. Our job fair vendors were Clayton County Police Department, Clayton County Parks and Recreation, Clayton County Emergency Services, The Swim Center Academy, MARTA, Jacobs, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Golden Corral, Cook Out, American Eagle Outfitters, and Waffle House.

Ryan Shaw, Human Resources Trainer and Researcher, trained 158 youth on how to gear up for job success. Cook Out interviewed 15 participants for their Riverdale and Morrow stores. The Swim Center Academy scheduled 25 applicants for follow-up swim tests. American Eagle Outfitters scheduled 13 interviews and hired 1 applicant. Waffle House hired 5 applicants. Golden Corral called back 12 applicants for interviews for their Stockbridge Location.

#### *Green Communities Internship*



We were approved for the Georgia County Internship Program grant through the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Civic Affairs Foundation to hire an intern to support the Green Communities Initiative. On May 15, 2018, Averie Lico was selected to fulfill the duties of the position and has been assigned to the Office of Planning, Zoning and Sustainability. Averie's tasks include performing trend analysis on existing Green Communities in Georgia, develop formal recommendations regarding the initiative, meeting with County department heads for their insight on the initiative, and implementing a plan for Clayton County to go green. Averie is a sophomore at Georgia Institute of Technology majoring in Public Policy with a concentration in environmental sustainability, Averie began her internship on June 5<sup>th</sup>.



### Goal III: Identify service gaps and prioritize countywide resources for efficient coordination of services.

#### *ACTION Community Network*

Agencies Collaborating to Increase Opportunities for our Youth Now was formed to bring youth service providers and partners together on a quarterly basis to create strategies to address the service delivery gaps for the youth of Clayton County, share information and create networking opportunities.

ACTION met on May 23, 2018 at Amazing Grace Ministries with Reverend Martha Harley as its host. Nicole Horne, Administrator of the Office of Youth Services collaborated with Jennifer Young of United Way to spearhead the meeting and discuss the Child Well-Being Scorecard Pilot program that is open to agencies servicing Clayton Youth.

The Child Well-Being Scorecard Pilot is a 12-month process that invites UWGA's partners to utilize the Clear Impact Scorecard performance management tool to measure and share results on programmatic efforts to improve Child Well-Being. The pilot includes free license for the software, learning sessions, coaching, and technical support.

**“Community cannot for long feed on itself; it can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers.”**

**– Howard Thurman**

The meeting focused on the Child Wellbeing Index and how ACTION could address **increasing 8<sup>th</sup> grade math standards, increasing 3<sup>rd</sup> reading standards, developing out-of-school programming for middle school age youth, and donating non-perishable food items to local food pantries** that serve identified food deserts. The following zip codes have been identified as food deserts with the lowest Child Wellbeing Index: 30274, 30296, 30297, and 30349.



- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Standards**

Dr. Tawanda Braswell, Executive Director of Inner Self Corporation immediately addressed the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading standard by developing a 5-week handwriting program that commenced on June 20, 2018 at the Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center.

- **Donating Non-Perishable Food Items to Local Food Pantries**

The Clayton County Youth Commission conducted a canned food drive from January 8<sup>th</sup> – February 5<sup>th</sup>. Goods were collected from the recreation centers and libraries. 269 canned goods were donated to Hearts to Nourish Hope. The formula used to feed a family is 1.2 pounds of food = 1 meal. The cans varied in size ranging from 1 – 7 pounds.

Goal IV: Identify funding sources.

Donor	Amount
American Eagle Outfitters Foundation Grant	\$2,500
Association County Commissioners of Georgia Grant (Verizon)	\$1,000
Association County Commissioners of Georgia Grant (Green Communities Internship)	\$2,138
Clayton County Board of Health	\$2,500
Private	\$1,500
Grand Total: \$9,638	

